

Message Text

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QUOTE

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TAGS: MARR, TSPA, OTRA, MX, NZ, CI, MP, UK

SUBJ: GEOS-3

REF: (A) STATE 144449; (B) LONDON 10410

SUMMARY: FCO HAS NOW OBTAINED FORMAL CLEARANCE FOR GEOS-3 PROGRAM OUTLINED IN REFTEL A. UK AUTHORITIES URGE NASA TO GET IN TOUCH ASAP DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN FALKLAND ISLANDS, HONIARA AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA TO GIVE THEM FULL DETAILS OF SITE REQUIREMENTS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRAVEL PLANS, ETC. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO HAVE CONSULTED THE ADMINISTRATOR OF TRISTAN DA CUNHA, THE GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE. ALL CONCERNED HAVE NOW GIVEN THEIR FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF UP TO THREE US CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRACKING EQUIPMENT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, TRISTAN DA

CUNHA AND GUADACANAL DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1975 TO JUNE 1976. IN ADDITION CLEARANCE FOR DEPLOYMENT AT GUADAL CANAL FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 1975 AND APRIL TO JUNE 1976 HAS ALSO BEEN OBTAINED.

2. THE FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY HAS ALREADY BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE USE FOR RECEPTION OF THE FREQUENCIES 136.32 MHZ, LQTP MHZ, 162 MHZ AND 400 MHZ. IT CONFIRMS THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 162 MHZ THESE FALL WITHIN BANDS AUTHORIZED FOR EXCLUSIVE SPACE ALLOCATIONS AND THE BRITISH AGREE, THEREFORE, TO THEIR USE FOR RECEPTION AT THE SITES MENTIONED ABOVE FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING ONE YEAR. THEY CANNOT, HOWEVER, GIVE ANY GUARANTEE THAT THESE FREQUENCY BANDS WILL BE FREE FROM HARMONIC OR SUB-HARMONIC INTERFERENCE AND THEY SUGGEST THAT THIS MIGHT BE A MATTER TO TAKE UP DIRECTLY WITH THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS. IN THE CASE OF 162 MHZ THIS FREQUENCY, WHICH FALLS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SERVICE BAND, WAS NOT ALLOCATED TO THE SPACE SERVICE UNTIL 1 JANUARY 1976 BY THE 1971 SPACE CONFERENCE UNDER RADIO REGULATION 287A. THIS REGULATION, HOWEVER, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ABROGATED BY THE MARITIME CONFERENCE 1974 AND NO SPACE ALLOCATION IN THIS BAND NOW EXISTS. THE USE OF THIS FREQUENCY, THEREFORE, IS OUT OF BAND AND NO PROTECTION CAN BE GIVEN. THE SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL HAVE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY INTERFERENCE FROM ACTIVITY BY THEM AT ANY OF THE SITES MENTIONED EXCEPT PERHAPS FROO HARMONICS FROM THE IONOSONDE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WHICH IS NORMALLY OPERATED HOURLY EXCEPT ON WORLD DAYS WHEN IT OPERATES EVERY QUARTER OF AN HOUR. HOWEVER, SRC DID NOT RECEIVE ANY REPORTS OF INTERFERENCE FROM THIS SOURCE FOR RECEPTION AT THEIR OWN SATELLITE BRANCH STATIO IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WHILE IT WAS IN OPERATION.

3. THE FCO IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT THE TELEMETRY REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRACKING TEAMS MAY PUT A STRAIN ON THE RESOURCES OF TRISTAN DA CUNHA. THEY CONSULTED THE ISLAND'S ADMINISTRATOR WHO COMMENTED ON THE POINTS LISTED IN REFTTEL A, PARAGRAPH 5, SUB-PARAGRAPHS A-F AS FOLLOWS

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- (A) IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF PEAK, BUT TEAM CANNOT BE STATIONED THERE. OPTICAL HORIZON IN SETTLEMENT AREA LESS THAN 180 DEGREES;
- (B) NO RADIO TRANSMISSION RECEIVING FREQUENCY AT 136.32 MHZ OR SUB-HARMONICS;
- (C) CAN SUPPLY FROM STAND BY GENERATOR 220 VOLTS WITHIN 10 PERCENT;
- (D) CAN PROVIDE AT SETTLEMENT BETWEEN 100/200 FEET ABOVE

SEA LEVEL;

(E) NO TRANSMITTER HERE BUT SOME BACKGROUND NOISE FROM FACTORY GENERATOR. OTHER POSSIBLE NOISE SOURCES SUCH AS ELECTRIC WELDING, CARS, ETC., CAN BE ELIMINATED DURING TRACKING PERIODS;

(F) ONLY TRANSMISSION IS 400 WATT HAND MORSE TO CAPE TOWN AT 0900 HOURS DAILY AND LOW POWER VOICE CIRCUIT TO GOUGH DAILY AT 1745 HOURS WHICH IS USED FOR METEOROLOGICAL PURPOSES. GOUGH THEN RELAYS INFORMATION TO PRETORIA.

LOCAL ABILITY AT TRISTAN DA CUNHA TO HANDLE TEAM'S TRAFFIC WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON VOLUME. THE ISLAND DOES NOT CARRY SURPLUS STORES OF CONCRETE WHICH COULD BE USED FOR THE ANTENNA SUPPORT BASE.

4. IN ADDITION TRISTAN DA CUNHA HAVE POINTED OUT THAT ACCOMMODATION WILL BE A PROBLEM AND THEY CONSIDER THAT THE TEAM SHOULD BE FULLY FUNDED. THE ISLAND RELIES ON THE "RSA" AND A FEW FISHING VESSELS A YEAR FOR ITS SUPPLIES, INCLUDING GENERATING FUEL, FOOD AND LIQUOR. ACCOMMODATION ON THE ISLAND IS LIMITED AND THERE ARE NO HOTELS BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE ISLANDERS MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER ACCOMMODATION TO MEMBERS OF THE TEAM. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CHECK THIS DIRECT WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE TEAM INTEND TO ARRIVE ON THE "RSA" (THE FCO BELIEVES DOD/NASA MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT PASSAGES) OR BY A US VESSEL. THERE ARE IN ANY CASE NO OUTWARD PASSAGES AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE YEAR ON THE FISHING VESSELS, WHICH ARE THE ONLY LINK WITH CAPE TOWN AT THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

5. THE GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS HAS ALSO COMPLETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTED THAT ACCOMMODATION IN THE FALKLANDS COULD POSE PROBLEMS. HE WILL, HOWEVER, BE ABLE TO JUDGE THE PROBLEM BETTER WHEN HE KNOWS THE PRECISE REQUIREMENTS.

6. FINALLY, THE SRC AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL (NERC) HAVE TOLD THE FCO THAT THE INFORMATION WHICH GEOS-3 WILL PROVIDE IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO UK OCEANOGRAPHERS AND THEY WOULD, THEREFORE, BE VERY GRATEFUL TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF ANY SUCH MEASUREMENTS BECAUSE THEY MAY WISH TO COORDINATE THESE WITH THEIR OWN OBSERVATIONS. NERC HAS ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCES FOR ANY TIDAL RECORDINGS OF ONE MONTH OR LONGER DURATION FOR TRISTAN DA CUNHA WHICH MAY BE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GEOS-3 - "SEA TRUTH" EXERCISE IN THAT AREA. ALTERNATE-

TIVELY, IF THERE ARE NO PLANS TO MAKE SUCH MEASUREMENTS,
WOULD DOD TEAMS BE PREPARED TO OPERATE CERTAIN RECORDING
EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE NERC?

RICHARDSON

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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